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Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 26 June 29, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2012

 883
SORTIES

15,148
LODGED 

 4.4 M
gallons
FUEL ISSUED



**Don't drink
and drive
call
295 57 LADD**

Medical Appointment:
Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261
Emergency:
Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911



**Weekend
Weather
Forecast**

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)
Partly Cloudy
Wind NW 10 - 15 mph
W 10 mph
HIGH 25C / 77F
LOW 18C / 64F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Partly Cloudy
Wind N 10 mph
W 10 mph
HIGH 24C / 75F
LOW 17C / 63F



Commanders and chiefs from the 65th Air Base Wing visited the new hospital in nearby Angra June 25 to thank staff members of Hospital de Santo Espírito da Ilha Terceira for the medical treatment they provide to Lajes' Airmen and families. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Wing leaders visit Angra's new hospital

By Staff Sgt. Erica Horner
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Due to the lack of emergency services on Lajes Field, many Lajes Field personnel and family members find themselves traveling off base to receive medical treatment. So, when the new, state-of-the-art hospital in nearby Angra opened, wing leadership took time to visit the hospital to get an idea of the quality of care that their Airmen receive off base.

The building and hospital staff were impressive, said Capt. Ricky Silvis of the 65th Medical Support Squadron. Silvis is the Tricare Operations and Patient Administration flight commander and oversees outpatient care.

"This facility is immaculate, and you might not think that being aesthetically pleasing is important, but it does make people feel better about the care they are receiving," he said.

When Airmen visit the hospital, it's important to note that the European standard of care one receives may seem different than in the United States. However, care is still top-notch, professional care, according to Silvis.

"The standard of care has always been the same; the

Portuguese medical staff provide outstanding care," he said. "There is great medical support here on the island that we can't provide on base."

While many Lajes members prefer to receive medical treatment on base, the reality is that some conditions or situations are better treated off base.

"We definitely rely on (the Angra hospital) because we don't have emergency services on base," said Silvis. "A lot of services - such as any type of surgeries we can't do here - make it important that we partner with them."

Overall, the visit to the Angra hospital was about awareness and communicating to Lajes Airmen and families that off base medical care is acceptable and sometimes necessary.

"We want to give people a better feeling about the kind of care that they are going to receive downtown," said Silvis.

Angra's new hospital opened in June and boasts emergency care capabilities, a dermatology clinic, pediatric care and various additional services. For more information about the Angra hospital, contact the 65th Medical Group at 535-3261.



Lajes commander thanks "A"irmen for passion, purpose, pride

By Col. Jose Rivera
65th Air Base Wing commander

April, Sofia and I are grateful for the opportunity to have served with you during the last two years. You welcomed us with open arms and gave us a sense of community that is rare these days.

You embody what is good about both of our nations. We are free people, dedicated to our families, our institutions and our countries; dedicated to the values of hard work, selfless sacrifice and the promise that with respect for each other our collective futures will be better.

We've served together at a time of conflict. Examples of today's fight are all

around us. Warriors deploying for the nth time, aircraft on their way back and forth to/from the AOR are common occurrence. Our nations called and you answered... every minute, of every hour, of every day ... you are "In the Fight!"

While fighting today's fight, you have taken care of each other. Our magnificent Lajes "A"irmen are resilient and look for ways to look after each other. After hours, you volunteer and follow your passion for service. We take care of the families of our deployed warriors. Your pride is evident as you go around our installation and



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, gives the Polish ambassador to Portugal, Skorzynska Katrzyna, a tour of Lajes Field June 11. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

marvel on the upkeep and state of our facilities. Our family members are working with us side by side as we strive to defend our values and serve our nations.

You took our relations with our host nation to new levels. Our operational integration with Air Base 4 is a model for all to follow. Our relationship is built on common values and respect. The 65 ABW Portuguese "A"irmen have served our common cause with pride for over 60 years. They are an integral part of mission and keep us in the fight. The residents of Terceira opened their communities and their hearts... showing us the wonderful Azorean culture and enriching our lives in ways that

others only dream of.

Never have you shied away from a challenge. Staff assistance visits, distinguished visitors, inspections came and went... you always exceeded the mark. You did this by rallying around a common cause to show the world that Lajes is ready. You define what a winning team is all about.

Thank you for your passion, purpose and pride. It's been an honor to be part of this amazing formation. For that, we'll forever be grateful.

Safety First: Safe Summer cookin'

By Master Sgt. Kevin Wallace
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Grilling-out is a staple of American culture, and asking anyone to not barbecue just isn't realistic. Here is some safety advice to make grilling as safe as cooking indoors.

Grills should only be lit and supervised by adults. Keep children away from grills and seek immediate first-aid treatment if someone is hurt.

"Be sure there are plenty of clean utensils and platters," states the U.S. Department of Agriculture website. "To prevent food-borne illness, don't use the same platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat [or poultry]. Harmful bacteria present in raw meat, poultry and their juices can contaminate safely cooked food.

"If you're eating away from home, find out if there's a source of clean water," continued the website. "If not, bring water for preparation and cleaning, or pack clean cloths, and moist towelettes for cleaning surfaces and hands."

Unsupervised barbecues are a large contributor to house fires, warns the National Fire Protection Association, who states that flammable or combustible gas is more likely to start a fire than charcoal grills. According to NFPA figures, 56 percent of outdoor house fires stem from grilling.

Here are some safety tips to remember:

General grill safety:

- Do not place an operating grill next to your house.
- Place grills where they won't tip over or ignite objects above them.
- Keep grills away from open window and doors.
- Do not use grills under awnings or carports.
- Do not place within 15 feet of combustible material.

Charcoal grill safety:

- Only apply lighter fluid on coals before fire is ignited.
- Never use gasoline to start a fire.
- Always soak coals in grill with water after cooking.
- Store unused charcoal in dry, well-ventilated area.

Gas grill safety:

- Always store outside when gas bottle is connected.
- Ensure no gas leaks. Prior to each use, check hoses and regulator.
- Check igniter switch for operation prior to turning on.
- Use caution when igniting grill.

Commander's Action Line
535-4240
65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Jose Rivera

Col. Jose Rivera
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presided over a change of command ceremony in which Capt. Frank Skrypak took command of the newly designated 65th Comptroller Flight June 27. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

New comptroller for Lajes, unit now a flight

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Raymond Castro relinquished command of the 65th Comptroller Squadron and Capt. Frank Skrypak took command of the unit, now redesignated as the 65th Comptroller Flight at a change of command ceremony June 27.

The flight was redesignated because unit manning no longer qualifies as a squadron. The Air Force requires that squadrons have at least 35 members, a threshold the unit does not meet.

No matter the designation, the unit's capabilities will remain, said Skrypak.

"We will continue to deliver timely and accurate pay, financial resources to support our wing's mission and key decision support to our leadership," he said.

Skrypak comes to Lajes Field from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he served as the Chief, Headquarters Account and Funds Management Section in the Financial Management and Comptroller Directorate for Air Education and Training Command.

Skrypak is a Dayton, Ohio, native and a graduate of Fayetteville State University.

Castro departs to Air Force Global Strike Command headquartered at Barksdale AFB, La.



Maj. Larry Wyatt took command of the 65th Security Forces Squadron June 27. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Defenders get new commander

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 65th Security Forces Squadron guidon changed hands today as Maj. Darren Stastny relinquished command to Maj. Larry Wyatt, Jr., in a change of command ceremony June 27. Col. John Oliver, 65th Mission Support Group commander presided over the ceremony.

"Defenders, squadron family, it is an honor to be part of your team. It is a privilege to serve as your commander," said Wyatt.

Wyatt will command a team of more than 70 security forces professionals, leading both American and Portuguese personnel.

Maintaining the 65th Security Forces Squadron's tradition of excellence is paramount, he said.

"As we stand today and as we march into tomorrow, we will continue that tradition of excellence," said Wyatt. "We will continue to fight today's fight, we will continue to take care of our families, we will continue to strengthen our bond with our Portuguese partners and we will continue to seize every opportunity and challenge of the future."

Wyatt arrives at Lajes Field after serving as the Chief of the Phoenix RAVEN and Detainee Movement Operations programs at Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Wyatt is a native of Chicago, Ill., and a 1996 graduate of Excelsior University.

Stastny departs to serve at the U.S. Pacific Command Joint Staff at Camp Smith, Hawaii.

65th MDOS welcomes new leader

Lt. Col. Kenny Harryman assumed command of the 65th Medical Operations Squadron during a ceremony here June 29.

Harryman was the Deputy Chief Nurse and Surgical Services Flight Commander at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Bellarmine University, Ky., and a Master of Health Care Administration from Touro International University, Calif. She is a Certified Perioperative Nurse.

In 1993, Harryman entered the Army and began her first assignment at the Medical Surgery Unit, Ireland Army Hospital, Fort Knox, Ky. In August 1997 she transferred into the Air Force and was assigned to the 74th Medical



Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, where she served as the Operating Room staff nurse.

In November 2000, she moved to the 374th Medical Group, Yokota AB, Japan, where she served as the Assistant Element Chief of the Operating Room. She subsequently moved in December 2004 to the 60th Medical Group at Travis AFB, Calif., where she became the Surgical Services Flight commander.

In April 2008, she deployed to Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, where she served as officer in charge/chief nurse of the operating room until she became the 86th Medical Squadron Deputy Chief Nurse and Surgical Services Flight Commander at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in January 2009.



Deployed families connect through Hearts Apart, down-home cooking

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Sometimes, as the saying goes, "a deployment is more difficult on the family than the Airman." But for three families, thanks to some down-home cooking and Lajes Field's Hearts Apart program, managing family life with a deployed Airman just got a little easier.

At this month's Hearts Apart program, sponsored by the Lajes Field Key Spouses, spouses of deployed Airmen were invited to prepare homemade casseroles at the Lajes Field fire department kitchen. The casserole-themed event was borne out of a desire to give spouses a break, said Adrienne Schmedthorst, 65th Air Base Wing staff key spouse.

"We wanted to do something to really help the spouses - not just today, but throughout the month," said Schmedthorst. "In the states there are businesses where they have foods chopped and prepped and ready to build your own casseroles, so we had the idea that we would bring that to Lajes."

Four casserole creating stations were setup with ingredients and supplies at the ready. Creating four casseroles at once allows the families to freeze some and cook the dishes at their leisure, said Schmedthorst.

For Angela Williams whose husband, Master Sgt. Wes Williams, is deployed to Landstuhl, Germany, building casseroles was a new experience.

"This is really cool. I've never done casseroles before, so I'm enjoying it," said Williams, as she mixed eggs, sausage and cheese

for a breakfast casserole.

Williams is a mother of four. After 17 years as an Air Force family, deployments are no longer unique, she said. But the support and hospitality demonstrated by the Lajes community are appreciated.

"Everyone here has been very helpful. (People are) always making sure we're okay and saying 'hey do you want to go to the movies,'" said Williams.

Lajes' close-knit community has helped Alaina Purdon's family get through her husband's deployment as well. Purdon, wife of Staff Sgt. James Purdon, of the 729th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, who is currently deployed to Southwest Asia, appreciates the close-knit feel.

"I know everyone in his shop because it's so small, so I can get ahold of anybody if I need to," said Purdon, in the midst of combining ingredients for a chicken and rice dish.

Though the main cooking ingredients at this event were casserole staples such as cream of mushroom soup and cheddar cheese, the interpersonal connection remains the most important element when dealing with a deployment, said Aimee Lanham, wife of Airman 1st Class Spencer Lanham, of the 65th Communications Squadron, who is currently deployed.

"The squadron has been a great help," she said. "With the people (at Lajes), it's great."

While the spouses prepared different take-home casseroles, their children toured the fire department. The tour culminated with a chance to dress up in firefighting gear and ride in a fire truck.

For more information on the Hearts Apart program, contact the Lajes Field Airman and Family Readiness Center at (314) 535-4138.

2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is complete. The full report will be distributed through e-mail and hard copies are also available in the Post Office, Commissary, BX, and Bioenvironmental Engineering office in Building T-425. We encourage all base residents to read this report and to share this information as appropriate with friends and neighbors.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Jason Holmes
Rank: Senior Airman
Unit: 65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Hometown: New Orleans, La.
Duty Title: Engineering Journeyman
Accomplishments: Airman Holmes is responsible for interpreting rough engineering sketches, conducting reconnaissance and mapping surveys to produce working drawings and current field data for civil engineering projects. Additionally, he links com-

puterized maps to databases throughout USAFE displaying detailed information by creating geographical coverage, developing database structures, linking graphical data to relational databases and updating the Base Comprehensive Plans (base maps). Airman Holmes is a member of the African American Heritage Committee and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Organization; president and founder of the Lajes Helping Hand committee (a small group of airmen volunteering to assist local orphanages); youth mentor at Lajes Elementary/High School; assisted in the Recruiter Assistance Program; and has recently completed his CCAF degree in Construction Technology.



Name: Délio Valadão
Rank: LWG
Unit: 65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Hometown: Vila Nova
Duty Title: Maintenance Mechanic
Accomplishments: Sr. Valadão is responsible for providing mechanical construction support for more than 400 Military Family Housing units here at Lajes in the Nascer do Sol and Beira Mar housing areas. Last year Sr. Valadão assisted in completing

more than 185 changes of occupancies which ensured new occupants of family housing received a well maintained home. Current projects include prepping the housing unit which will be offered to the new wing commander, requiring special attention and renovation. His unmatched willingness to complete any and all tasks assigned in a professional and timely manner make him one of the most valuable assets to the housing maintenance team and enhances the Civil Engineer Squadron's effectiveness. Sr. Valadão has been a dedicated Lajes Field employee for more than 17 years.



"6-5... IN THE FIGHT!"

Feature



Col. Sergio Ferreira, Air Base 4 commander, and Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, celebrate the 'commissary reset' during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Lajes' Defense Commissary Agency June 26. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Chief Master Sgt. Robert Marquez, 65th Communications Squadron superintendent, welcomes Senior Airman William Sovitsky and greets the Sovitsky family upon his return from a deployment during a Warrior Welcome ceremony June 21. Senior Airman David Amaya was also welcomed back from a deployment at the event. Both are members of the 65th CS. (Photo by Guido Melo)



A C-5 Galaxy from the 164th Airlift Wing Tennessee Air National Guard stops at Lajes Field for a refueling mission June 20. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Eight of Lajes' newest Airmen graduate from the First Term Airmen Center orientation June 22. FTAC is a four-day structured program which transitions Airmen from a training mindset to a mission-oriented environment at their first duty station. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Jorge Meneses instructs the Portuguese Language and Culture Class June 26. To learn the basic language and culture of the Azores, register for this monthly two-week class by sending an e-mail to portugueseulturalcourse@hotmail.com. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mark your calendar

Photography Exhibition: The Photography Exhibiton Grand Opening will be at the Solid Rock Oasis June 29 at 11 a.m. The Exhibition will run through July 8, Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. This is sponsored by and hosted at the Solid Rock Oasis in Building T-307. For more information, call 535-4019.



Lajes Goodness Picnic: The Lajes Goodness Picnic will be on June 29 at the Top of the Rock Club Warrior Park from 3 to 6 p.m.

Idol Tour coming to Lajes: On July 1 at 7 p.m. the Armed Forces Entertainment Idols Tour will present a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see six of the former reality television contestants perform at Lajes Field. The concert will be held at the Community Activities Center and admission is free.

Freedom Fest: Visit the Security Forces Squadron field July 4 at 4 p.m. for Freedom Fest. There will be music, food, fireworks and Kombat Kitchen.

Veterinary appointments in June: The veterinary technician will be unavailable July 5 to Aug. 18, so please coordinate your pets' medical needs accordingly. If you require medical care during this time, you will need to see another veterinary on island. For more information, call the VTF at 535-3134.

Housing website: Visit www.Housing.af.mil to find your new home with the Air Force. This website serves as a one-stop shop for Airmen and their families to obtain information about the housing options and support services available to them at Air Force Bases world-wide.

MDG Training every 2nd Tuesday: The 65th Medical Group clinic is closed for unit training every second Tuesday of the month. TRICARE Online (TOL) is always available as an option for appointment booking. All beneficiaries must register at www.tricareonline.com for an account. For more information, call 535-3261.



Notes

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: My car will not start. Can you call a tow truck?

PORTUGUESE: O meu carro não arranca. Pode-me chamar um reboque?

PRONUNCIATION: Oo meyoh CARho now ahRHANKa. Pode may shaMAR oom rheBOHK?

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Friday, Jun 29: Noon Running of the bulls for children, Angra

Saturday, Jun 30: 6:30 p.m. Port of Porto Martins

Saturday, Jun 30: 6:00 p.m. Largo São Bento, Angra

Monday, Jul 2: 6:30 p.m. Port of Vila Nova

Tuesday, Jul 3: 6:30 p.m. Senhora da Ajuda, Vila Nova

Wednesday, Jul 4: 6:30 p.m. Casa da Ribeira

Wednesday, Jul 4: 6:30 p.m. Bairro S. Pedro, Biscoitos

Thursday, Jul 5: 6:30 p.m. Casa da Ribeira

Friday, Jul 6: 6:30 p.m. Casa da Ribeira



Lajes Against Drunk Driving 295-57-LADD (5233)

Every year the Air Force loses great Airmen to drunk driving. Please help save a life and your career by calling Lajes Against Drunk Driving. LADD is a base program that provides free rides for individuals who've had too much to drink. LADD will be available between the hours of 9:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. every weekend.

The LADD program is available to all Lajes Airmen, so if you are the one who ends up needing a ride this or any weekend, call LADD. For more information, please contact your squadron representative.

ASK ED

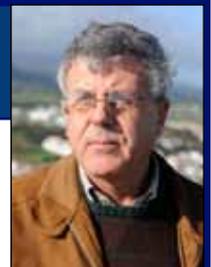
A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor

Exploring Terceira's Caves

Terceira Island has at least four caves that can be visited and explored by enthusiasts of Mother Nature especially during the summer months.

The two most visited caves are Algar do Carvão, the second largest cave located in the heart of the island near Cabrito area and the Gruta de Natal (Christmas cave) located near Lagoa do Negro (Black's Lake) also in the center of the island.



The two other caves are Balcões, the largest one, located near the town of Biscoitos and Agulhas in the town of Porto Judeu.

Algar do Carvão is actually an extinct Volcano chimney not totally filled with lava in the form of a cone, which are the remains of a 2,000-year-old volcanic eruption. The cave's name means "Coal pit" because its walls are formed from black lava.

The access to the cave is nowadays made through a tunnel and stairs. At its end there's a small pond formed by crystalline rainwater at a depth of approximately 328 feet. Depending on the season and the amount of rainwater, the pond can be up to 50 feet deep. The cave and surrounding area were declared a natural monument after the initiative of the local spelunking group "Os Montanheiros."

The Christmas cave, although less known, is also worth a visit. It was named Christmas because it held a live nativity scene and a Christmas cantata shortly after it was discovered. Both caves are maintained by "Os Montanheiros." They underwent renovation works a couple of years ago with the purpose of improving access to the visitors, including a reinforced electric lighting system and background music.

In addition to the caves, Os Montanheiros also maintain a volcanology museum at their office headquarters located at #8, Rua da Rocha in Angra do Heroism. Here visitors can see an exhibit of Azorean geological samples and buy souvenirs. The museum is open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. However, I recommend that visitors call 295-21-2992 to make sure it is open.

The spelunking group also organizes special visits to the caves between Oct. 15 and March 24 for groups with more than 10 people. Interested parties should call the telephone number listed above to make reservations.

The Algar do Carvão and Christmas caves are open daily March 24 to May 31 from 3 to 5:30 p.m., June 1 to 30 from 2:30 to 5:45 p.m., July 1 to Aug. 31 from 2 to 6 p.m., Sept. 1 to 30 from 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. and Oct. 1 to 14 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The admission cost to visit the Algar do Carvão and Christmas caves is 5 Euros per person.

The Balcões and Agulhas caves are unattended and not lighted, so be careful going inside because of slippery floors and low ceilings. Flashlights and appropriate clothing will also be needed for exploration of these two caves. Also located near the Algar do Carvão is the sulphur pits area that is definitely worth a visit. These are not caves, but just spots where one can see steam coming out of the ground, a demonstration of the volcanic activity in the area.

For more information on the caves visit the Os Montanheiros website at www.montanheiros.com.